



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

April 27, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

As bipartisan members of the Texas congressional delegation, we write to congratulate you on your recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization hearing and to express support for a nonstop flight to and from San Antonio International Airport (SAT) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). We intend to work in good faith toward a permanent legislative solution that ensures South and Central Texans and the men and women stationed in Military City USA can conveniently access our nation's capital.

We are proud of the strong military and veteran communities located in the San Antonio region. In fact, San Antonio – the seventh largest city in the nation – and Bexar County alone are home to an estimated 80,000 active-duty service members and 159,000 veterans.¹ Joint Base San Antonio is the most mission-diverse joint base within the Department of Defense (DOD), trains more students than any other DOD installation, and houses the DOD's largest military hospital.² San Antonio is also home to the second largest cybersecurity community in the country, surpassed only by Washington, D.C.³

The San Antonio region's defense, veteran, and cybersecurity presence, in addition to its robust business community, have led to significant travel demand to and from the region and Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, there is no nonstop flight between SAT and DCA – the closest airport to both the Pentagon and downtown Washington, D.C. Consequently, the two airports are each other's second-most underserved markets.

Multiple airlines have expressed serious interest in operating a nonstop flight between SAT and DCA, recognizing strong demand, but the federal slot and perimeter rules for DCA have precluded them from doing so. Improving air service to the San Antonio region from Washington, D.C. has long enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support, and we the undersigned are committed to working

¹ https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.cnas.org/SanAntonioNeedsAssessment_2022_Final.pdf

² <https://www.sanantonio.gov/military-veteran-affairs/sabases>

³ <https://www.sanantonio.gov/IID/Industry-Clusters/Information-Technology-And-Cybersecurity>

toward a legislative solution to fix this problem, whether it is in the upcoming FAA reauthorization bill or another legislative vehicle.

Securing a nonstop flight between DCA and SAT would promote national security and economic opportunity and make it easier for tens of thousands of veterans to be honored in our nation's capital. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Billy Nolen, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration